

**Joint Granby Economic Development & Growth Committee
And Granby Planning Board Meeting**
Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 6:30 pm
Meeting Held via Go-To-Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members: Economic Development and Growth Committee
Jay Joyce, Chairman
Bryan Hauschild
Bill Porter
Jim Trompke
Lillian Camus (Alternate)
Jason Smigiel – for DLTA Project Work Group portion
Planning Board
Jim Trompke, Chair
Robert Sheehan, Jr., Vice Chair
Lillian Camus, Secretary
Jason Smigiel, Member

Absent: Gary Glenn

Visitor: Ken Comia – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Call to Order: Jay Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Open Action Items

- 1) Economic Development Grant Application
 - a. Jay Joyce explained the Economic Growth & Development Committee was at the meeting in a supporting role to the Planning Board and would not be voting.
 - b. Ken Comia gave an overview of the Mixed-Use Development District Analysis & Report. The report included identifying mixed-use development already in Town, existing zoning, and mixed-use development mentioned in the Master Plan. The report also included possible changes to the current Zoning Bylaw regarding mixed-use development.
 - c. The report outlined potential financing available through *Mass Works* and *MassDevelopment* (<https://www.massdevelopment.com/who-we-are/>) and a discussion on Tax Increment Financing (TIF).
 - d. Update Community Compact currently 2015.

Businessman's Recommendations

- 1) Land acquisition
 1. Sand Plains State Park Land off Green Meadow Lane.
 - i) Jay Joyce will request the Select Board give the information to the Land Use Committee as soon as possible so they can start their review.
 - ii) On Monday, December 7 the Select Board approved a motion to forward Sand Plains State Park parcel to the Land Use Committee for their consideration.
 2. Cooley Park – Park Oversight Committee said we are welcome to the land because no one wants to use the park as it is so bug infested. The Committee decided not to move forward with Cooley Park.
 3. Route 202 acreage abutting Town-owned land – 4 West State Street to access Town-owned land-locked parcel.
 - i) Property owner considering donating the land to the Town. In return the property owner wants a playground for kids created with a memorial plaque dedicating the playground to her husband.
 - ii) Jim Trompke suggested the Land Review Committee take a look at the property.
 - (1) Jay will recommend at the next Select Board meeting the Land Use Committee review the request.
 - (2) Chris Martin was in touch with the landowner.
 - (3) On Monday, November 16, Jay requested the Select Board give the information to the Land Use Committee as soon as possible so they can start their review. No response from the Select Board. Jay will make a motion at the next Select Board meeting.
 - (4) On Monday, December 7 the Select Board approved a motion to forward the 4 West State Street property to the Land Use Committee for their consideration.
- 2) Short Term Tax Incentives for new businesses
 1. Bill Porter reported the Assessors have not fully explored the tax incentives. The Assessors have to set up a program and agree as to how the program will be administered and send it to the Select Board.

Rt. 202 Upgrades – Except Village Center

- 1) Water Pipeline at 5 Corners = waiting for Mass DOT FY2023 scheduled work
 - a. Waiting until 2023 to finalize plans in conjunction with Mass DOT's schedule.
- 2) Water Pipeline from the South Hadley\Granby Town line to 64 West State Street
 - a. South Hadley Tasks to be completed:
 - i. Requiring a minimum of 40% of the businesses to commit to using the pipeline before they will give us a letter of approval.
 - ii. Approximately 70-75% of the businesses submitted their commitment letter and included their \$2,000 commitment.
 - iii. Jennifer Silva will take over this project for the Select Board. The Select Board is waiting for a letter of approval from South Hadley.

- iv. December 14, 2020 the Select Board voted to send a document to our politicians (Eric Lesser, Dan Cary and Mindy Domb) to reinstate the in-kind funds (\$360,00) so we can proceed with the project.

Grants/Loans

- 2) Mass Works Grant Application
 - a. The Town did not apply for June 2020 grant.
 - b. Next one due June 2021 (unless COVID-19 changes date)
- 3) EPA Water Structure Funding Loan – Waiting on response from Steve Nally
- 4) Small Town Road Assistance Program Grant Application – (STRAP)
 - a. The Town did not apply in FY2020 for a grant.
 - b. Not sure if the Town will apply for a FY2021 grant.

Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program

- 1) Granby Municipal Utility (Electric) Department
 - a. Economic Development & Growth Committee will work with the Energy Committee on details.

New Business

- 1) Small Business Administration COVID-19 Grants
 - a. Applications open October 22, 2020 at noon and close November 12, 2020 at noon.
 - i) Valley Community Development has sources available to assist at no charge with the applications
 - b. Two Grants Available
 - i) Businesses with 5 or less employees
(1) \$10,000 limit
 - ii) Businesses with 50 or less employees
(1) \$75,000 limit
 - c. Out of a potential 316 small businesses in Town, only 4 applied for the grants. As a result, the remaining share of the money allotted to Granby was distributed among the other six towns in our grant region.
 - i) Jay will check to see if businesses can still apply for the grant.
 - ii) Jay noted the Town has poor communication with businesses in Granby with regard to notifying them of potential grants, etc.
 - iii) Information was posted on the Town's website, Facebook and in flyers.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Go-To-Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Brian Hauschild and seconded by Bill Porter to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.
Motion carried 4 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

I, Lillian Camus, certify that these minutes are true and accurate minutes of the December 22, 2020 Granby Economic Development and Growth Committee meeting.